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United States Government

Department of Energy

Rocky Flats Office

memorandum

DATE: FEB 26 1991

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ERD-FRL:1366

SUBJECT: Environmental Restoration FY92 Budget

TO: R. P. Whitfield, Associate Director
Office of Environmental Restoration, EM-40

The recent Environmental Restoration budget for FY92 has indicated a funding level at \$50M. While this is significantly above the \$36M projected 2 years ago, it is also significantly below the \$87M projected as necessary to meet the Department's commitments in our Interagency Agreement (IAG) with the State of Colorado and Environmental Protection Agency. We would like to request your best efforts to increase our funding to the required \$87M level in FY92.

The budget in FY92 has increased for several reasons. Refinement of cost estimates is a major reason, with costs generally increasing as more knowledge was attained. A second major reason is the deferral of funding from FY90 and FY91 programs. The push-out of milestones from these earlier years now creates an increased requirement in FY92. A further push-out from FY92 into FY93 and beyond is much more difficult now that the IAG has been signed.


We have previously provided to your staff our proposal for the best expenditure of the \$50M. We have allocated this money almost exclusively to the top priorities in the IAG and the overall site and management activities needed to support those top priorities. You should be aware that under the proposed prioritization, the last nine Operable Units (8-16) would have no work accomplished in FY92, and 12 of 22 milestones currently scheduled for FY92 must be extended or they will be missed. Although lack of appropriation of funding is discussed as a possible reason for schedule adjustment in Part 50 of the IAG, it is not an automatic reason nor recognized as a defense under any enforcement action.

ADMIN RECORD

A-SW-000541

R. P. Whitfield
Page 2

We are fully committed to the environmental restoration activities at Rocky Flats and the successful completion of the IAG commitments. We will continue to look for innovative solutions for characterization and cleanup to maximize use of our limited funds. We will also continue to refine our estimates and contracting methods to get the greatest return for our dollars. However, as that effort progresses, we also ask for your support in acquiring the necessary funding to meet the Department's commitments.


David P. Simonson
Assistant Manager
for Environmental Management

cc:
R. Lightner, EM-45, DOE